

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:WBSMITH:CFE

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA: MR. ATHERTON

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P R 262200Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, FR, IS

SUBJECT: FRENCH INTEREST IN ISRAELI FONMIN VISIT TO
WASHINGTON

REF: PARIS 10161

1. YOU MAY INFORM QUAI THAT ALLON VISIT TO U.S. ENDING APRIL 22 WAS PRIMARILY FUND-RAISING TOUR. HIS APRIL 21 CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY WAS HIS ONLY OFFICIAL U.S. CONTACT. SECRETARY AND ALLON REVIEWED SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST AND BILATERAL MATTERS. IN THIS TALK, THE ISRAELIS APPEARED CONFUSED AND DIVIDED, AND NO NEW IDEAS WERE ADVANCED. THEY REPEATED THEIR LAST PROPOSAL WHICH WE KNEW WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE EGYPTIANS. OUR REASSESSMENT OF MIDDLE EAST POLICY IS CONTINUING AS BEFORE.

2. ON OUR REASSESSMENT, YOU SHOULD CALL TO QUAI'S ATTENTION FACT THAT PRESIDENT IN HIS ADDRESS TO CONGRESS APRIL 10 STRONGLY REAFFIRMED HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE AN ACTIVE U.S. ROLE TO HELP BRING ABOUT PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. YOU MAY
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SAY THAT IT IS HIS STRONG INTENTION TO MAINTAIN POSITION

THAT U.S. INTERESTS IN MIDDLE EAST WILL NOT PERMIT U.S. TO STAND ASIDE FROM AFFAIRS OF THAT AREA. BECAUSE U.S. POLICY REASSESSMENT IS CONTINUING, PRESIDENT IN HIS SPEECH CAREFULLY LEFT ALL OPTIONS OPEN IN REGARD TO HOW PEACE EFFORTS SHOULD PROCEED. OUR FOUR AMBASSADORS FROM ISRAEL, EGYPT, JORDAN, AND SYRIA WERE IN WASHINGTON MID-APRIL TAKING PART IN REASSESSMENT AND PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE. FOLLOWING DISAPPOINTMENT OF LATEST NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, WE ARE COMMITTED IN PRINCIPLE TO RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN OUR REASSESSMENT THREE OPTIONS HAVE BEGUN TO EMERGE: A RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE SUSPENDED IN MARCH PENDING RETURN TO GENEVA; PURSUIT OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT AT GENEVA; AND, AS PART OF NEGOTIATIONS OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT AND BEFORE THEIR COMPLETION, CONCLUSION OF INTERIM NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN TWO OR MORE OF THE PARTIES. WE HAVE MADE NO DECISION AS TO NEXT PARTICULAR STEP WE WILL FAVOR, AND OUR REASSESSMENT IS CONTINUING.

3. FYI. WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION FRENCH CARE TO GIVE US AFTERWARDS ON THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLON. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE IN POSITION, HOWEVER, OF APPEARING TO ADVISE FRENCH ON TACK THEY SHOULD TAKE WITH HIM. KISSINGER

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